



southern california dx club

AUGUST 2002



Bill, WA5VGI is writing a series on retirement hamming. This photo shows the big stack with the 2-el 80 mtr Yagi over the 2-el 40 mtr over the 30/17/12 meter tri-bander. In the background is the C-19XR 20/15/10 tri-bander and to the far right is the 160 meter vertical. The other picture is a close-up of the stack

Soap Box— Words from our President



Well the dog days of DX Summer are upon us. The pickings have been slim. Conditions have been fair at times, and the signals aren't that strong. On the other hand I did work the CY9, 5K0Z and VQ9FW for new mode and bands. I also got on a little during the IARU contest and worked a bunch of the WRTC stations.

Congratulations to Len, W6AUG on winning the Kenwood hand-held at the last meeting Raffle. Herb's doing a great job on picking prizes, and I'm sure this month will be no exception.

Thanks to Jerry, K6AV for bring his new Backpacking antenna and giving a demonstration at the last meeting.

By now, you should have received the proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws in the

mail. The slight changes are updating and bringing us into the 21st century. Please read it over and we'll be voting on it at the meeting.

The ARRL Southwestern Convention is coming up this month in Escondido.

Our Annual Summer Bash will be at Wayne, W6IRD and Sharon "wild women" Spring's on Sunday August 25th.

I received an e-mail from member Gray, KM6MW. He will be operating from Salt Spring Island in the Gulf Islands (NA-075), up near Vancouver July 27th and 28th. He will be activating his VE7TMW call for the first time.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

73,
Skip, KJ6Y

By-Law Revisions

Proposed revisions to the club by-laws were mailed to all active, paid-up members. These items will be voted upon at the August General Meeting.

E-Mail Addresses

Reminder — if you change your email address please inform the club membership chairman.

de the Veep

This month's SCDXC Club Meeting will feature Bill Scholz, W1HIJ. Many of you know Bill from HRO Anaheim, and the SCCC. But, here is some background information for you. Bill Scholz, W1HIJ/6 was originally licensed in 1954. After being semi-active until 1972, he let his license lapse and then became re-licensed as AC6UH in 1996. After getting the old call back, he's become an active contester and recently a "semi-pro" DXpeditioner. The last two years have included three visits to Polynesia as FO0SCH and the 2001 CW WPX contest as FO8DX (2nd place for the Oceania continent).



He just returned from a brief visit to Puerto Rico where he, K7JA, N6PEQ, NP4A and WP3C set a new record for Class 4A in Field Day and completed some 6500 QSO's in 24 hours.

Bill's talk will cover experiences in Polynesia and some details of the Puerto Rico Field Day trip.

We will have some great raffle prizes again for this month's meeting, so be sure to dip into the cookie jar before you leave for the meeting, and you just might be lucky enough to leave with something really cool!

Also, don't forget that this year's Summer Bash will be hosted by Wayne – W6IRD, at his great home QTH in Orange. The Bash is Sunday afternoon, August 25, 2002. So be sure to mark your calendars and plan to come by!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting! 73 and gud DXing till then!

Herb

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held August 8, 2002 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.

Bill, W1HIJ will show his operation from FO0 and KP4.

See ya there!

SK George J. Watts, KB6V

De KN6H: "It's my sad duty to inform the SCDXC that my friend and long-time DXer George Watts KB6V passed away on his 85th birthday June 27, 2002. He had undergone intestinal surgery and had remained in the hospital for several weeks due to post-surgery complications."

George Watts was born June 27, 1917 in the Panama Canal Zone where his father, a doctor with the US Public Health Service, fought diseases plaguing canal workers.

In the early '20's, the family transferred to Ft. Harrison, Montana near



Helena. At age 15 George joined the Montana National Guard where his electronics talents quickly became apparent. In 1933 at the age of 16, he earned his first ham radio license with the call sign W7ANR. From 1937 to 1941 he studied electrical engineering at Montana State College and was awarded the BSEE degree. He was in engineering school and thus avoided activation when his National Guard unit was sent to the South Pacific. The entire unit was subsequently killed.

After college, George remained in the service with the Army Signal Corps, the Army Air Corps and finally the USAF.

He earned additional ham licenses as his electronic and radar assignments transferred him to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio (W8ZNR), Falls Church, VA (W4PXI), Annapolis, MD (W3ZNR), Wiesbaden and Ramstein AFB's, Germany (DL4KN) and finally California (WA6JKO and KB6V). He learned radar theory at the Military College of Science at Bury and Bawdsey, England and established radar sites in Florida, the Aleutian Islands and Burma. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, retiring from his many worldwide USAF travels by 1964.

He died on his 85th birthday, June 27, 2002 having outlived an

(Continued on page 7)

SUMMER BASH — Aug 25 at W6IRD

Each year the SCDXC and the SDDXC get together and share stories and eye-ball. This year the **Annual Summer Bash will be held Sunday August 25, 2002 At W6IRD's QTH** from 1:00 P.M. to closing. Wayne's address is: 1243 Fairway Dr, Orange, CA 92666 Tele # (714) 639-3982.

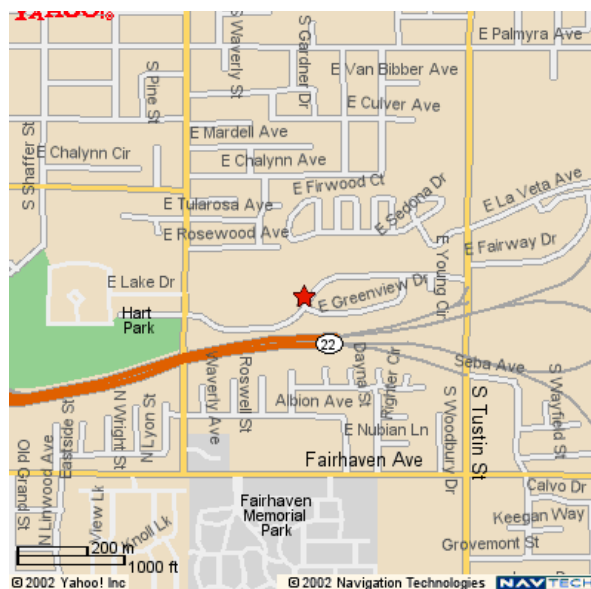
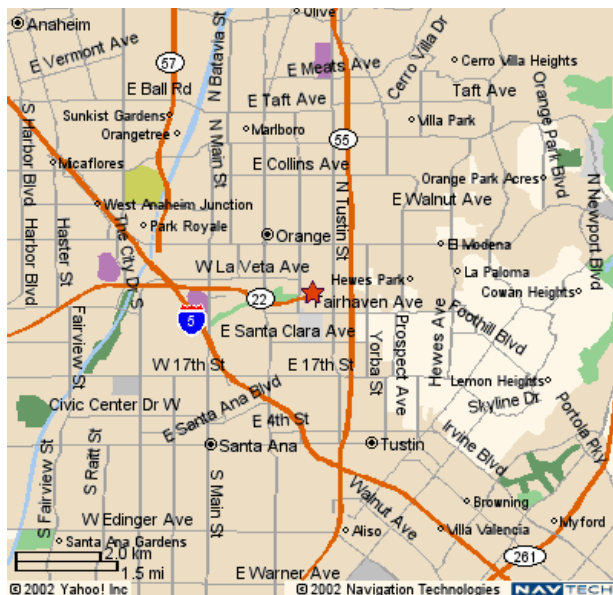
GOING SOUTH:

Take the 22 Fwy. to Tustin Avenue. This is the last off ramp before the 22 merges onto the 55 Fwy. Turn left on Tustin. After you go under the freeway overpass, turn left

at the first street, which is Fairway Dr. Proceed on Fairway about 1/4 mile. QTH is located on the right.

GOING NORTH:

Take the 5 Fwy. to the 55 Fwy. North. Take the Seventeenth St. off ramp. Turn left on Seventeenth. Turn right at the first light, which is Tustin. Proceed on Tustin about 1-1/2 miles to Fairway Drive. Fairway Drive is the first street you can turn left after you pass under the 22 freeway overpass. QTH is located 1/4 mile on the right.





June 28

A group of us got together with Victor, ZK1CG/ZK1USA from the Cook Islands. Along with Victor, there was KJ6Y, N6GIL, K6YRA, W6BUN, W6VX, W6VXN, W6SW, and W8DX.

We met for dinner and went back to Al and Bunny's QTH for desert and a slide show.



Edgar, N6OU, sent this photo of the antenna farm at his QTH. No he won't send a picture of his shack. Like maybe he could not find the shack among all the "hobby" stuff.

Spotting Derby

This has been one of the "slowest" spotting months since the competition started. Conditions are stinko and everyone has been vacationing.

The results for July are:

Spotter	Spots	Score
W6VX	35	98
AD6KQ	22	69
WA6TLA	28	64
W6AUG	25	59
KG6OK	10	28
W6TG	8	27
K6YRA	8	24
W6LAX	7	16
K2PLF	3	15
N6IC	9	14
K6IRA	10	12
W6EA	3	12
W6KK	4	11
K6YUI	6	10
WB6RSE	6	9
WA5VGI	2	9
N6RT	1	8
W6RW	3	5
KJ6Y	1	4
W6ZH	1	3
AI6Z	1	2
W6SR	1	2
W06M	1	2

de K6EXO



Internet Junk

It is getting worse each day! There probably is no way to totally protect against all the spam, etc. But, here are a few suggestions.

Always use BLIND COPY, Bcc, when sending to a list.

Use a good anti-virus program and keep it updated (I use the CA product and receive updated files almost every day.

Never open email attachments unless you check them for viruses.

Do not reply to spam.

VP6 Cards.

Many of the deserving have received cards for this DXpedition. For those still waiting VE3HO has issued the following:

There are allot of people who are asking where is my card why do I not have my card yet and a few people seem to be complaining about how I sorted the cards. I guess these guys are all QSL Managers with years of experience. So sit back and relax the job is being done. I am not taking the time away from QSLing to answer all the individual e-mail on where is my card, this is the last one I need for #1 Honor Roll and I have not received it yet, so this is your reply. (End result most of you will have a card in time to make a submission before the end of September deadline to make your annual DXCC update.)

<http://www.ve3ho.com/ve3ho-qslmgr.htm#vp6di>

73 Garth VE3HO

Ham Puzzle

Transistor Radio Capacitors?

In the old days (1950s) hand held transistor radios that tuned the broadcast band, the rf amplifier tuned circuit air variable capacitor value needed to be, say, 300 pf.

(a) How did they get that much capacity into that little bitty capacitor?

(b) In modern transistor radios they got rid of the tuning capacitor altogether. What do they use now instead?

By Milt, W6RJO



Last month we were asked how the raffle winner knew which box to take. Here is the answer: The "slicker" winner first picks from the box marked "Coax Relays and Coax Adaptors". Suppose his pick is a coax relay. Since all box labels are wrong (box is not coax relays and coax adaptors) that box must contain coax relays only. So the other two boxes (also labeled wrong) contain coax adaptors and coax adaptors and coax relays. On these two, also wrong labeled boxes, he mentally switches labels to get their labels correct. He now knows the contents of all boxes, so he picks his second shot at his pleasure. This also works if his first pick turns out to be a coax adaptor.



Propagation January 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.

Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 160, corresponding to a sunspot number of 120, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed.

Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

V8 Brunei - 8/5 to 8/11 - Beam 297 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/8) 2221/1032
40: 1100-1300.
20: 0900-1600.
15: 1430-1700 and 0600-0900.
3A Monaco - 8/5 to 8/15 -
Beam 36 degrees

Sunrise/sunset (on 8/10) 0435/1836
40: 0330-0400.
20: 0100-0630.
15: 1530-0030.

VP8 Falkland Islands - 8/17 to 8/18 -
Beam 147 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/18) 1106/2051
80: 0530-1000.
40: 0330-1030.
20: 0130-1230.
15: 2100-0600 and 1300-1700.

HK0 San Andres & Providencia 8/20 to 8/30 -
Beam 114 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/25) 1119/2338
80: 0330-1100.
40: 0230-1130.
20: 2300-0800 and 1130-1430.
15: 1500-0500.

OJ0 Market Reef - 8/31 to 9/7 -
Beam 20 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 9/4) 0352/1733
40: Around 0400.
20: 0530-0800 and 0000-0030.
15: 1530-2030.

You are invited to participate.
The SCDXC Newsletter needs your input. Send
QSLs, stories, news items, etc to the editor.
Photos are very welcome.

Retirement DXing: The WA5VGI Experience

Part 2: Beams and Towers

Editors note: This is part 2 of the VGI sage. Bill's first part was published last month

The coming of the summer of 1997 was a welcome event after dealing with the winter/spring winds and rain. I had completed the spring property cleanup consisting of weed whacking and picking up branches and wood scraps from the costal oaks. Now it was time to get my building permit and get my first tower up. I had researched the local codes for an amateur radio tower and had purchased a home with no CC&Rs except one: no billboards were permitted on my land! The city building codes were the same wording as the San Luis Obispo building codes and allowed a tower up to 50 feet in height. Also a review of the engineering specifications on the tower and the base in-



stallation was required. Down to city hall I went to get my permit.

At the city planning desk when I asked for a permit for a tower the fellow behind the desk gave me a very strange look, did an about face and went into a nearby office to talk to another planner. He emerged a few minutes later with a piece of paper in hand. He told me I would have to obtain a conditional use permit and have a public hearing in order to put up a tower. I showed him my copy of the city code and he then showed me the paper in his hand. It was a copy

of the same city code along with several lines which had been typewritten on the copy which stated that all towers were a "utility" and all "utilities" required a conditional use permit. He also stated that I would be better off if I used the internet if I wanted to talk to people and that way I wouldn't need a tower. Needless to say I was speechless. My emotions were running high and I decided that it would be best to leave at that point and collect my thoughts.

A few days later through recommendations from a friend I engaged the services of a real estate attorney. He told me he had the latest copy of the city codes and went to his book shelf to get the applicable volume. He turned a few pages and said that there was no mention of a conditional use permit requirement in his copy. He told me that he would do some checking and get back to me. He called a few days later to tell me that the planning people had done some "in-house tailoring" of the codes and there was no record of a public hearing to review or comment on these changes. In essence I was left with the choice of a conditional use permit, going to court or proceeding with my plans.

After a couple weeks of thought and discussion with some neighbors and friends I decided to go and test the waters. I had previously invited all of my adjacent neighbors over to the house to see my station and explain



what amateur radio and DXing were all about. Also when I had problems with the verticals the preceding winter many of them volunteered to come and help me with the antennas. My



plan would be to put up a small tribander on top of the mast which currently held my R-7 vertical. A few days later I ordered a C-3S tribander manufactured by Force-12. This antenna had a small physical envelope and also would function on 17 and 12 meters with the use of an antenna tuner.

The honking horn on the UPS truck announced my carton had arrived from Force-12. A few hours later I had the individual pieces laying out on the driveway and assembly was under way. Assembly was straight forward and now my beam antenna lay before me ready to head skyward. The mast assembly that I had made to erect the R-7 was not strong enough to attach the C-3S beam and pull it up so I arranged to have a 45 foot boom lift delivered to my house and use it to place the beam on top of the mast. I also had a Yaseu G-800S rotator I had previously purchased used to rotate the antenna. The boom lift arrived the next weekend and it was a simple matter to install the rotator, haul up the beam and attach every thing in place. The MFJ-259 SWR analyzer showed the SWR to be acceptable on all 3 bands. Excitement was running high as this was the first beam an-

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tenna I had ever owned and I was anxious to get it on the air. The rotator cable and antenna coax were routed into the shack and it was time for an on the air test. The rotator rotated perfectly and DX stations found their way into the log. My DXing had just moved up a big notch. All was fine. But during the installation I had forgotten one key item which would bite me in a big way later in the year.

My favorite DX contest is the CQ WW CW contest held in November. I still had my GAP vertical for 80 and 40 meters and with the beam for 20,15 and 10 meters I was ready for the contest. Friday evening started off well and I was able to hold a run frequency on 20 meters and put a good number of European stations in the CT log. Outside the wind began to blow and it looked like we were going to get our first winter rain storm for the season. I went to bed around 1:00 AM ready to get back up at 4:00 AM and put some JA stations in the log. But the winds grew very strong and at 2:30 AM I was wide awake trying to look outside and see how the beam was holding up. I ventured outside in the driving rain and the beam was still intact even though the elements were bending severely in the high wind. At 4:00 AM I got up and got on 40 meters to work some JAs. Around first light I



decided to take a look outside and check on the beam. I went out on the front porch and looked up at the mast. Imagine my shock when I saw there was no antenna on top of the rotator. Impossible I thought. Then my eyes traveled to a nearby oak tree. Perched on top of the oak tree was my C-3S beam with the coax still attached to it. I was dumbfounded. Then it dawned on me what must have happened. In my haste to get the beam mounted I had not fully tightened the 4 bolts which held the mounting plates together. The force of the winds had not only loosened these bolts but was severe enough to actually back off all 4 nuts so that the antenna could become completely loose from the rotator. Well I did what any good DX operator would do. I went to the shack and checked the SWR on 20,15 and 10 meters. The beam and the tree didn't like 10 meters so I finished the remainder of the contest using the C-3S on 20 and 15 meters.

Approximately 2 weeks later things had dried out sufficiently so I rented another boom lift and returned the beam to the mast. This time all bolts were tightened, checked and retightened. I also used a through bolt to pin the antenna to the mast. All remained fine through the winter storm season but as the spring of 1998 approached once again I began to think about a "real" tower.

(to be continued).

George J. Watts

(Continued from page 3)

older sister and two older brothers. His wife Dorothy and two sons, George II and Herbert survive him. The family has requested that memorial donations in George's name be made to the charity of your choice. (The ARRL Education Foundation is suggested).

Awards

USAF Commendation Medal,
DXCC Phone #4921,
Total countries confirmed: 323
WAS (Oscar) #160, Oct 1989
WAZ, 1991

Call signs

W7ANR W8ZNR W4PXI
W3ZNR DL4KN WA6JKO
KB6V
Memberships
IEEE Sigma Alpha Epsilon
AMSAT QCWA, Jan '67
ARRL Life Member

Antenna Stuff

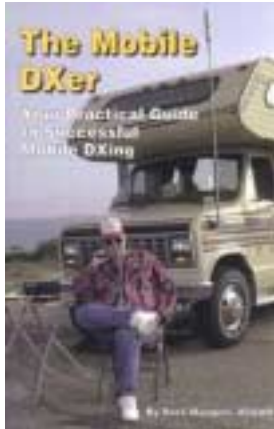
Don, N6IC, thought you would be interested in a gem found surfing the web.

"I enjoyed looking at the web sites listed in the bulletin. Here is one I just found that is interesting. It is not ham related but is about antennas which every ham loves. With its unique capabilities, it would be interesting to have some of the amateur antenna companies listing their antenna performances.

<http://www.antennapatterns.com>

Get Ready Now!

**The next solar minimum
will likely occur sometime
in 2006 with cycle 24
peaking in 2010.**



The Mobile DXer

SCDXC member, Dave Mangels, AC6WO, has published this great book which he calls "Your practical guide to successful mobile DXing."

He covers: Selecting and installing mobile HF transceivers. Picking the right mobile antenna and tuner. Proper mobile antenna installation. Propagation and the HF mobile DXer. Lightning hazards when mobile and portable DXing. Practical tips and tools for making mobile DX contacts. The language of mobile DXing. Making your computer work for you in your DX quest. And a host of other interesting and useful resources for the ham who already enjoys mobile DXing, as well as the ham who hasn't yet tried his or her hand at it. The following story, telling the background of the book, was written by Dave

About a year ago, CQ Communications introduced my book: The Mobile DXer.

It was received with great anticipation by Hams interested in mobile DX. Today, it is gaining a very solid reputation in the US and Europe. Martti Lane OH2BH has his own personalized copy as well as Abdul-lah EP2FM in Baghdad.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere Thank-You to those SCDXC members who responded to my first e-mail and purchased autographed, personalized first edition copies.

I have been asked "What made me, as a first-time author, write a book extensively covering Mobile and Portable DXing?"

My buddies knew I was approaching 200 countries confirmed where 95% were worked Mobile or Portable using 100 watts or less. I was asked for assistance. A very common question by the growing numbers of Hams who were buying the newest micro-mini transceiver's such as the FT100 or the IC706 and mobile antenna's was "Where can I buy a book about Mobile DXing?" As far as I knew, no book was available that addressed the new equipment now on the market.

I had recently completed the authorship (and accreditation) of two Agriculture Science Adult Education

courses and was ready for a new writing task.

I envisioned a small but very extensive guide book covering all the things a "new" Amateur needs to become familiar with as he embarks on his exciting adventure into the world of Mobile DXing. I wanted this to be a compact "Guide" that would also teach some new techniques to break up "massive" pile-up's that work.

I spent a year writing The Mobile DXer and another six month's working with Gail Schiber, K2RED, the Managing Editor of CQ Magazine doing lay-out and art work as well as some editing.

My goal was to cover as many aspects of Mobile DXing as I could and set them into a logical sequence. That's why you will find an "Introduction" and a Mobile DXers Vocabulary right up front. Subjects such as: Micro-Mini HF Transceiver selections, Mobile HF Antennas, A Photo Essay of a Mobile FT100 and a ATAS 100 Installation, Propagation for the Mobile DXer, Computers & The Internet, Techniques For Working Mobile DX, Lightning Precaution's, QSL Card's and QSLing, A Mobile DXers Map and Let The Award's Ceremony Begin are all covered extensively.

There is a very good selection of both black and white and color photographs depicting exotic QSL cards from my collection, photographs of

actual Mobile DX operation, Portable Operation at a base camp, and both National and International Awards the Mobile DXer can strive for on his quest for DXCC and WAZ.

I am delighted to be receiving a large assortment's of e-mails from around the U.S. and other countries from DXer's who have followed my suggested techniques and find "It works!"

Is there possibly an Advanced Mobile DXer book forth coming in the future? Possibly. Depends on how much the DX Community wants it. Right now the pressure is becoming stronger for me to write it. But first, I would like to enjoy the status of being one of the "Newest" member's on the CQ DX Honor Roll most of the countries worked Mobile or Portable and on 100 watts or less for a little while any way. Then it's onto the ARRL Honor Roll. That magic number of 325 is looming closer and closer with the current level of 287 confirmed I am at now.

You can purchase The Mobile DXer from me if you like for \$17.00 which includes the cost of the book plus Priority Mail shipping. I autograph and personalize (your name and call) as well as date each copy I send out. I do have a few First Edition copies left. Send a check to my call book address. Or, you can order it from both CQ and Popular Communications magazines. Also, the ARRL is carrying it as a companion book!

73 and Good Mobile DXing,

A personal request from K6IRA

Hi,

As you may know, I have been fighting an expensive lawsuit brought by a neighbor trying to get me to take down my ham antenna due to CC&Rs. The FCC's PRB-1 now advises state and local governments "to reasonably accommodate" antennas. There is now a bill in the US House of Representatives that would expand PRB-1 to homeowners associations, etc., (thus to CC&Rs). I need your help to get that bill passed by Congress.

Please go to <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

which will give you the e-mail address for your Congressman, based on your zip code. Please write an e-mail asking for his/her support for H.R. 4720, "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act."

Please Blind Copy ,Bcc, to: k6ira@aol.com, and ccr-bill@arrl.org

Thanks for your help.

• 73 Ira

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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Preparation for WRC-2003 has begun

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*Were're on the web
www.scdxc.org*

DX IS!
And don't you forget it!

FIRST CLASS

Southern California DX Club *BULLETIN*
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